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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana

FL. 278

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

SEPTEMBER, 1967

Some Grey Among the Blue in August Job Picture

The Two Sides of August—There was both a credit and a debit side to the August labor market picture. The brighter aspects reflected stabilized high employment levels in the majority of industry groups. Tourism, the back-to-school buying season, and good yields from fruit and grain harvests kept the volume of main street business at a good pace. The whirl of activity at logging camps and sawmills in the timbered areas continued after being temporarily stilled by closure of forest lands because of fire hazards. Employment on construction projects increased by 700 workers from July to August this year. Oil exploration and drilling operations began to show signs of greater activity as the month ended. Clouding the employment scene were the deepening shadows of the copper industry strike now into the third month. Prospects for early settlement of this dispute still appear dim. More than \$10 million in wages have been lost by the striking workers since the strike began on July 15. The loss to the State of Montana in personal state income taxes is projected at \$293,340 for every 6½ week period of the strike. The striking workers are barred by Montana law from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Workers laid off from their jobs in trade, service, and other firms because of weakened economic conditions caused by the strike are generally determined eligible for jobless pay benefits. Unemployment claims filed by idled workers in this latter category so far have not been too noticeable. From August 4 through

September 8, 1967, a total of 175 such claim payments were made totaling \$5,674.00. Secondary unemployment as a result of the strike is now starting to edge up at a faster pace than in earlier weeks.

Non-Farm Employment Down 6,400 From July—The adverse influence of the copper strike was the chief factor in the 6,400 employment decline from July to August this year. A total of 189,300 non-farm wage earners remained on August payrolls, 6,900 fewer than the same month last year. Economic trends earlier this year and prior to the copper strike pointed to the possibility of an industrial employment peak of 200,000 this year. Employment for the first five months of this year exceeded job totals of comparable months of all past years. Employment levels during June and July this year fell just slightly short of year ago totals for the same months. The final employment figure of 195,700 on non-farm payrolls this July should stand as the job peak for this year. The continuing copper strike plus the soon to start seasonal declines in other industries leave little promise for a higher figure.

August Jobseekers Totaled 9,056—More than 9,000 jobseekers were registered for work at the 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service during August. The total was up nearly 2,200 from last year. More than 40 per cent of the current total were registered at Anaconda, Butte, and Great Falls where the copper strike is in effect.

August UCC Checks Came to \$208,332—The \$208,332 paid in jobless benefits to eligible, unemployed workers this August compares with a \$155,069 total for the same month last year. UCC payments from January through August this year amounted to \$4,638,834, up \$376,372 from the comparable period a year ago. During August 1967, unemployed workers in Cascade County received \$38,585 in jobless pay, followed by \$32,058 in Yellowstone County, and \$30,004 in Silver Bow County. There were claimants in all other counties except Carter, Garfield, Liberty, and Toole. At the end of August, the Montana UCC Trust Fund contained \$21,357,563.

Some Worker Shortages In Evidence—Replacement hiring to fill vacancies left by students returning to schools and colleges began in earnest in late August. Shortages of cooks, waitresses and maids developed in some areas including Bozeman, Libby, and Polson. Loggers and woods equipment operators were in short supply in some timbered sections of the state. Yellowstone Park needed more workers to finish up the season.

Farm Front Active—Several thousand workers were kept busy in the grain, cherry, and sweet corn harvests, all now completed. Good over-all yields were reported from all fields and orchards. The potato harvest will begin late in September, giving temporary employment to several hundred workers.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966
All Manufacturing	4.9	8.2	4.6	4.3	7.4	4.1	3.9	5.3	4.9	2.4	3.3	3.4	.4	1.0	.3
Durable Goods	4.9	8.9	4.5	4.5	7.9	4.0	4.6	5.5	5.9	2.7	3.7	4.0	.6	.6	.3
Primary Metal	2.1	12.3	5.7	1.5	9.6	4.5	3.3	4.4	4.8	2.2	3.2	2.0	.8	.7	*
Nondurable Goods	5.0	6.7	4.8	4.0	6.3	4.4	2.2	4.8	2.7	1.8	2.5	2.1	.2	1.8	.1
All Mining	4.2	8.6	5.2	3.0	4.1	3.0	3.4	5.4	6.0	1.7	3.9	3.0	.2	.1	.5
Metal Mining	2.6	9.0	5.4	.8	3.1	2.4	3.4	6.3	5.9	1.5	4.5	3.5	.1	.1	*

*Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for August

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—The continuing copper strike clouds local employment scene. Some layoffs occurring in trade and service industries. Other main street workers are on short work weeks. Several hundred idled workers were placed on forest fires and in farm work.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—A good agenda of building and remodeling projects in progress including a shopping center, newspaper plant, and expansion of sugar refinery. Highway construction employment down one third from year ago, due to lack of new projects and right-of-way difficulties. Employment in trade and manufacturing firms holds to good seasonal levels. Grain crops produced excellent yields. Agricultural job placements totaled 1,200 workers.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Good volume of employment being maintained in all industry groups. All construction work on schedule. Work began on \$196,000 auto agency building. Lumber mill employment at capacity; some shortages of woods workers continue. Main street activity will keep brisk as 6,000 returning college students will offset declining tourist trade.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Idled miners and smeltermen wait patiently for word which will send them back to work. Little progress toward settlement in evidence as the strike enters into the third month. Some secondary unemployment now starting to develop with layoffs noted in trade and service industries, and the furlough of some salaried personnel of the mining industry.

CUT BANK—Forest fire control and forest service activities were in the limelight during August. A fair amount of building and highway construction was in evidence. Good seasonal job trends covered trade, service, and agricultural industries.

DILLON—Construction employment at good level despite strike by carpenters. Several projects completed including Lima school building and 5½ mile highway section. Mining and mill trends looking up with installation of new equipment. Good farm labor demand with 155 job placements during August.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Employment in area at high seasonal levels during August; most avail-

Civilian Work Force

	Aug. 67	July 67	Aug. 66	July 67 to Aug. 67	Aug. 66 to Aug. 67
Civilian Work Force	288.8	294.2	284.3	—5.4	4.5
Total Employment	270.6	281.2	274.6	—10.6	—4.0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	221.3	228.0	229.2	—6.7	—7.9
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	189.3	195.7	196.2	—6.4	—6.9
Total Agriculture Employment	49.3	53.2	45.4	—3.9	3.9
Labor Management Disputes	7.6	*	.1	7.6	7.5
Total Unemployment	10.6	13.0	9.6	—2.4	1.0
Percent Unemployed	3.7	4.4	3.4		
U.S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.1	3.6		

*Less than 50

able workers employed. Construction includes Fort Peck housing project, Glasgow water treatment plant, and building remodeling. Good worker demand in main street firms. Farm labor demand reduced by poor crops.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Economic activity in area shows little change from last year. Highway and bridge construction slowed earlier by high water now active. A new hospital the only major building project. Small grain harvest completed with near record yields.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—The copper strike leaves its mark on local economy with buying power of 1,800 idled workers sharply reduced. August hiring was mostly for remodification of missiles, and for new shopping center soon to open. More than 200 men were recruited for forest fighting duties in other areas. Farm job placements were near the 1,700 mark mostly for grain harvest activities.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Employment generally at good levels despite limited construction and downturn in logging activities. Hiring by forest service stepped up for fire fighting and control. Farm job placements totaled over 300 mostly for fruit and hay harvests.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Trade, service and private households were at the head of August hiring lines. Replacement hiring will occur during September as working students return to school. Other than small highway project in Harlem area, no new construction in sight. Farm labor demand diminishing with completion of major harvest activities.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Labor

market trends continue to lag especially in the construction and trade industry groups. Building construction at low volume. Two highway projects in progress accounting for some new hiring. Farm labor demand exceeded last year, but now starting to taper off.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Heavy demand for forest fire fighters, lumber mill, and construction workers highlighted labor market activity during August. Good upturn also noted in trade industry hiring responding to high employment in other groups. Work forces on major building projects were increased. The cherry harvest accounted for most of the more than 500 farm job placements.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Industrial job placements up 12 % from last year as job openings increased in trade, service, and manufacturing. Heavy tourist trade noted. Shortages of waitresses developed. Opening of new sawmill created 16 new jobs. Building construction at good volume.

LIBBY—Employment related to Libby Dam projects was near the 1,600 mark. Influx of workers into the area continues and there is a surplus of heavy equipment operators, carpenters, teamsters, and laborers. Closure of forest lands due to fire hazards caused slowdown in logging. 220 men were sent to the fire lines during the month. Trade and service activity at good pace.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Hiring in industry and agriculture was at good volume during August. Several building projects completed but hiring continued for other work including projects in Yellowstone Park. Some trade and service industry workers, including cooks and maids, were in short supply. Logging and lumbering was at good ca-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	173.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.2	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.2	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	178.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.3	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	158.9	154.8	158.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	159.2	159.6	163.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	175.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	179.3	184.2	194.0	196.4	196.2	191.9	189.8	185.5	185.9	185.4
1967	180.4	178.2	178.2	182.5	185.8	193.8	195.7	189.3*					

* Preliminary Estimate—

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for August

capacity with persistent shortages of timber fallers and truck drivers. Farm labor demand and supply fairly well balanced.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Generally active trends covered most industry groups during August. Job gains noted both in farm and industry from same period last year. Main street business holding up well as tourist season nears end. Transient worker traffic helped relieve some workers shortages.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Labor market activity holds to steady trends. August job placements were near the 1,100 mark with 60% of this number placed on forest fire control. Cutbacks in logging operations occurred with closure of forests because of fire danger. Main street business at good volume. Farm labor demand was mainly for hay hands.

POLSON—Over-all employment picture looks good despite some temporary slowdown in logging because of fire danger in forest lands. Log shortages could cause some mill layoffs during September. Good labor demand on main street, chiefly for food industry workers. Farm labor demand lessened with completion of fruit harvest.

SHELBY—Industry job placements declined from last month with stable employment in most industry groups and little turnover. Hiring in oil field operations not up to last year. Some construction layoffs noted. Main street trends fairly good. 117 farm job placements made during August.

SIDNEY—Sparked by good grain harvests and increased construction activity, area economy shows a prosperous glow. An active file of but 37 job-seekers consists mainly of youth, some in the 14-15 age bracket. Main street employment at seasonal high. 164 farm job placements set a record for August.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Closure of forest areas because of fire danger idled 250 woodsmen and 100 construction workers at month's end. Most mills have stockpiled logs to keep to production schedules until logging resumes. Replacement hiring in trade and manufacturing industries will occur in September as working students return to classes.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Construction and oil field work were at good volume during the month. Labor supply has been adequate to meet increased labor demand. Good demand seen for female workers next month in trade and service firms as students quit jobs to return to school. Grain and hay harvests stimulated demand for farm workers.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Aug. 1967 (2)	July 1967 (3)	Aug. 1966	July '67 to Aug. '67	Aug. '66 Against Aug. '67
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	189,360	195,700	196,260	-6,400	-6,900
Manufacturing	22,100	25,200	25,100	-3,100	-3,000
Durable goods	14,000	17,000	17,000	-3,000	-3,000
Lumber and timber products	10,400	10,200	10,600	200	200
*Primary metals	1,300	4,500	4,300	-3,200	-3,000
Other (4)	2,300	2,300	2,100	00	200
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,200	8,100	-100	00
Food and kindred products	4,300	4,300	4,300	00	00
Printing and publishing	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	1,000	1,100	1,000	-100	00
Mining	3,100	6,800	7,600	-3,700	-1,500
*Metal mining	900	4,600	5,000	-3,700	-4,100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	800	800	1,100	00	300
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,400	1,400	1,500	00	100
Contract Construction	12,900	12,200	14,600	700	-1,700
Contractors, building construction	3,400	3,400	3,900	00	500
Contractors, other than building	5,500	5,100	6,200	400	700
Contractors, special trade	4,000	3,700	4,500	300	500
Transportation and utilities	18,200	18,200	18,600	00	-400
Interstate railroads	7,600	7,600	7,900	00	300
Transportation except railroads	4,200	4,200	4,300	00	100
Utilities including communication	6,400	6,400	6,400	00	00
Trade	46,800	46,500	45,500	300	1,200
Wholesale trade	9,700	9,500	9,100	200	600
Retail trade	37,100	37,000	36,500	100	600
General merchandise and apparel	6,900	6,900	6,600	00	300
Food stores	5,200	5,200	5,400	00	200
Eating and drinking establishments	11,100	10,900	10,500	200	600
Automotive and filling stations	7,200	7,300	7,200	-100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,700	6,700	6,800	00	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,500	7,500	7,300	00	200
Services and miscellaneous	28,400	28,500	28,700	-100	-300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,800	4,900	5,200	-100	400
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	100
Other (6)	21,400	21,400	21,200	00	200
Government	50,300	50,800	48,700	-500	1,600
Federal	14,000	14,000	14,300	00	300
State and local	36,300	36,800	34,400	-500	1,900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,200	24,800	24,200	-1,600	-1,000
*Manufacturing	2,000	3,600	3,800	-1,600	-1,800
Contract construction	2,800	2,700	2,500	100	300
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,300	6,300	6,100	00	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,000	4,000	00	00
Government	4,600	4,700	4,300	-100	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	27,000	26,900	26,100	100	600
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,000	00	100
Contract Construction	2,100	2,100	1,800	00	300
Transportation and Utilities	2,800	2,800	2,600	00	200
Trade, wholesale and retail	8,200	8,200	8,000	00	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,500	00	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,200	5,100	5,100	100	100
Government	4,200	4,200	4,400	00	200

*Copper Strike Started 7/15/67

- Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 664 selected Montana establishments.
- Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,188 such establishments.
- Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST, 1967 AND AUGUST, 1966

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Aug. 1967		Aug. 1966		Aug. 1967		Aug. 1966		Aug. 1967				Aug. 1966				Wk. 8-25	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1967	1966
Anaconda	123	20	156	36	935	187	172	31	273	22	295	138	225	28	353	73	92	44
Billings	594	227	644	226	1,022	306	1,068	346	751	1,208	1,959	437	780	1,038	1,827	545	393	452
Bozeman	232	49	272	49	150	19	150	19	213	98	311	77	204	107	311	53	38	26
Butte	400	130	375	127	1,062	304	761	158	656	11	667	254	264	25	229	71	417	191
Cut Bank	35	7	44	7	92	20	96	12	54	30	84	32	219	86	305	106	41	26
Dillon	105	41	78	34	65	17	75	17	49	156	205	92	52	158	210	106	22	16
Glasgow	63	12	77	17	93	6	102	7	133	50	183	36	98	77	175	58	23	34
Glendive	54	8	51	5	76	9	82	5	63	57	120	33	62	75	137	9	30	23
Great Falls	771	154	928	223	1,686	266	1,255	321	562	1,700	2,262	335	144	1,604	2,348	366	377	254
Hamilton	43	14	54	13	85	13	61	16	195	343	538	107	84	366	450	46	30	29
Hayre	62	11	42	7	62	12	55	6	101	483	584	67	94	492	586	83	36	34
Helena	210	21	245	78	497	58	229	46	441	80	521	237	302	77	379	121	106	79
Kalispell	291	76	373	85	369	85	585	141	632	524	1,156	220	395	307	702	128	94	126
Lewistown	48	3	41	9	50	9	50	9	72	324	396	43	60	276	336	45	18	22
Libby	116	40	...	...	260	103	...	...	254	3	257	88	...	...	...	150	57	...
Livingston	86	10	47	10	118	10	83	11	166	51	217	31	92	39	131	31	13	17
Miles City	72	13	76	9	96	6	76	11	95	64	150	43	62	42	104	29	20	22
Missoula	731	231	714	235	1,350	378	1,123	330	1,073	79	1,152	424	367	66	433	134	165	156
Polson	35	14	69	24	71	20	100	20	271	51	322	45	45	212	257	48	25	38
Shelby	75	31	71	26	73	11	48	12	49	167	216	31	52	366	418	59	26	14
Sidney	40	9	75	10	37	3	83	4	88	164	252	19	110	156	266	16	13	28
Thom. Falls	51	13	46	16	80	28	53	12	58	1	59	19	32	6	38	16	20	15
Wolf Point	67	22	38	10	79	24	57	14	23	94	117	27	32	78	110	34	23	31
Billings YOC	785	14	256	14	648	42	523	18	219	61	280	16	341	17	358	9	...	...
TOTALS	4,689	1,170	4,772	1,270	9,056	1,956	6,887	1,565	6,491	5,821	12,312	2,856	4,665	5,698	10,363	2,166	2,172	1,774

Includes 148 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 110 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966
All Manufacturing	123.07	118.27	118.08	39.7	38.4	40.3	3.10	3.08	2.93
Durable Goods	121.21	115.60	116.64	39.1	37.9	40.5	3.10	3.05	2.88
Primary Metals	*	106.25	124.74	*	35.3	40.5	*	3.01	3.08
Nondurable Goods	125.86	125.05	122.45	41.4	39.2	39.5	3.04	3.19	3.10
Food and Kindred Products	125.94	117.88	111.52	44.5	42.1	41.0	2.83	2.80	2.72
All Mining	133.01	123.00	128.35	40.8	38.2	38.2	3.26	3.22	3.36
Metal Mining	*	117.39	126.31	*	36.8	36.4	*	3.19	3.47
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	122.59	120.29	117.89	41.0	39.7	40.1	2.99	3.03	2.94

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

*Copper Strike Started 7 15 67

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
United States Postage
Accounted for Under
Act of Congress

